

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

OLYMPIA THEATRE, Broadway.—THE PANTOMIME OF
WILLIAM WINKLE.

BOHEMIA THEATRE, Broadway.—THE GALLEY SLAVE—
A GOLDEN FETTER.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 8th st.—Perform-
ances every afternoon and evening.

GLOBE THEATRE, 78 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAIN-
MENT.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—
SARATOGA.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 234 st., between 14th and 15th avs.—
KIDNAPING.

NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 45 Bowery.—LOVE AND
INTRIGUE.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE SPECTACLE OF
THE BLACK CROOK.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 13th street.—
WAR.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 720 Broadway.—KIND TO
A FAULT—LADY.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th av. and 23d st.—
LA GRANDE DUCHESSE.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—
GURRING CLOVERDA.—BONNY JAFFER JENKINS.

BROOKLYN ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—JEFFERSON AS
RIP VAN WINKLE.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—YAN-
KEE ENTERTAINMENT.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 84 Broadway.—COMIC VOCAL-
ISM, NEGRO AGES, &c.—JOLLY SANTA CLAUS.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 555 Broadway.—
NEGRO MINSTRELS, FARGES, BURLINGAME, &c.

BRANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 234 st., between 6th
and 7th avs.—NEGRO MINSTRELS, BURLINGAME, &c.

APOLLO HALL, corner 23d street and Broadway.—
DR. COHEN'S DIORAMA OF ISRAEL.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—SCENES IN
THE KING, ACROBATS, &c.

MOORE'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—MOORE'S AND
KELLY & LON'S MINSTRELS.

BROOKLYN OPERA HOUSE.—WELCH, HUGHES
AND WHITE'S MINSTRELS.—CARRY THE NEWS TO MARY.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 615 Broadway.—
SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Thursday, January 12, 1871.

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THE MICHIGAN REPUBLICANS think they are safely over their sea of troubles now that they have secured their Ferry for United States Senator.

THE DEMOCRATS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE actually expect to carry that State in March next. They have harmonized all their party differences and nominated James A. Weston, of Manchester, for Governor.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.—It appears from the Adjutant General's report that we have eight divisions of the National Guard in the State, numbering 24,285 men, officers and all. This is a very effective standing army in time of peace, and we can depend on all our citizens in time of war.

FRANK BLAIR will most probably be chosen United States Senator by the Missouri Legislature to-morrow or next day. The constitution of the State, as interpreted by radical registry officers, will not allow him to vote, but it cannot prevent his being voted for, and we are likely to have the anomaly of a man voting in the United States Senate who cannot vote in his own precinct.

WE HOPE THE RECEPTION OF THE PENIAN EXILES will not be made altogether a political affair. We must remember, while Tammany is taking the matter into its own hands, that many republican Irishmen are heartily enlisted in the welcome to be tendered them, and that a republican administration finally secured their release. Sixteen of the liberated prisoners are on board the Cuba, and among them the question of party politics, or of any politics except the broad one of freedom and self-government, is doubtless entirely ignored.

THAT COLORED CADET AGAIN.—The court martial of James Smith, the colored cadet at West Point, for alleged lying, has already occupied five days, and it is believed all the evidence is in. The unfortunate, and in this case apparently "unreliable contraband," will make his own statement of the case to-day. This poor little pioneer of social equality has so far proven an exceedingly costly experiment. It is very doubtful whether even in the old days of slavery this "bright boy" would have brought as much as the government has already expended on him merely to find out whether he told a lie.

Finance and Common Sense.

At the present stage of our history American opinion can well afford to attend with greater closeness than heretofore to the educated, sound and liberal opinion of foreign countries where wise ordering, scientific precision, zealous and patriotic statesmanship may furnish to us valuable suggestions in the direction of our own steps. We are the inheritors of the labors of all mankind. It is in all respects for our interests and in no respect against our dignity to attend to the scientific liberal opinion of the civilized world as to any portion of our policy and our doings which belongs to political science in its most universal aspect, and upon which, therefore, we ought, if wise, to avail ourselves of the stock of wisdom and knowledge common to all educated and civilized mankind.

Apply this to finance, and we have a state of facts which, combined with the hideous, we had almost said the infernal, pressure of the shames on our own feet, cannot longer be disregarded. For years past the whole unanimous opinion of fiscal and economical authority in every land has been in an attitude of prolonged bewilderment at our proceedings in the sovereign article of finance.

For years past every intelligent economical thinker throughout the globe has been asking himself how it can possibly be that the most industrious and intelligent population in the world, supposed to have their destinies under their own control, can submit with an unexampled and ignorant patience to fiscal loads and fiscal processes which might almost appear devised by express malignity of ingenuity so to outweigh us in the race of life as to insure not a prosperous run thereat, but an ignominious breakdown and defeat. For years past the dweller in the United States has been regarded by scientific economists and practical chancellors of the exchequer all over the world as a curious and monstrous Issachar, a "strong ass crouching under the burdens" which ignorant statesmanship persists in laying on him. It is not a comfortable state of things by any means to be so regarded. To be fleeced unmercifully by our government and to be laughed at immoderately by the sober-minded of all countries, surely that is not a pleasant or a profitable plight to stand in. Pocket and pride cry out against it alike. And can that state of things endure which thus injures and outrages pocket and pride? We mean to try that question.

What can be more paradoxical than our position at this moment? We raise by oppressive taxation surpluses every year unexampled in financial history, and which make the mouths of treasurers and chancellors of exchequer throughout the globe to water as they gaze stupefied with envy and admiration at the colossal figures which testify to the greatness at once of our country and our folly. It might be expected, then, that the whole capital of the world would compete eagerly for our favors; that a nation with a balance-sheet so magnificent would have the lenders of the world at its feet, and that no country would be able to place its public debt upon the market upon terms so favorable. But we know by only too painful experience and certainty that this is not the case. Now, is not this a subject deserving our most serious scrutiny? Why is it that Great Britain, with her ebbing political power and a range of productive resources which is to ours as Lilliput to Brobdingnag, can command at any moment countless millions at three per cent, while we cannot be sure of commanding any appreciable sum except at rates at least twice as much? There are answers to this question of the most definite and precise kind, and we shall give them in due course.

For the present we desire to lay at the outset express and particular stress upon the fact that it is precisely the immediate, ill-considered and cruel extent of our taxation which lies at the very root of this matter. We are taking from the pockets of our people a hundred millions more a year than are required for any immediate practical purpose. It is this inflated and impertinent piece of practical dogmatism, and this mainly, that not only oppresses us all in our business lives, robs us of half our lives in fact by making them just one-half as productive as they might be, but also, let it be well noted, keeps down our public credit. We should like to write it up in letters of fire throughout the land that the extra taxation it is which keeps down our credit. Why? Because it is, in fact, an immense forced loan taken yearly out of the people's pockets by burglarious financial policy. Because, therefore, our government itself blunderingly competes with the capitalist lender all the time, and thus by incredible and inexplicable perversity, steadily and perseveringly, like the pig cutting its own throat as it goes against the stream, raises the money market against itself. Because you cannot increase the capacity of people to raise loans on favorable terms by bleeding them to death to pay off loans before they are due. All this doctrine is in conflict with the stupid and interested cry which has prevailed among us so long that we can only appreciate our public credit by keeping up our taxation to the utmost. The exact contrary is the truth, the plain truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help us the first rules of arithmetic! It is truth which, as we have said, we should like to write up in letters of fire all over the land: truth so plain, indeed, that the politician who will not learn it might well deserve to be thrown into the fire in which it was written, as not having the brains which entitle him to a longer existence in the midst of rational mankind.

The practical and urgent inference from all this is that we should reconsider from the very foundation our present plan of action with regard to the relation of taxation and the payment of the debt. We have furnished the decisive key to the right solution. To overtax, beyond immediate need, to pay off debt prematurely is in reality to increase the burden of debt. We should adopt the simple rule of paying off debt out of legitimate surplus—namely, that which accrues in yearly income out of taxes imposed only to meet current necessities, but which overtop expenditure by the necessary expansion of the country. Such has been the plan of Great Britain notoriously the best ordered country financially, whatever

she may be in other respects, in the world. She buys up her debt in detail, not out of taxes imposed for the purpose, but out of the extra product of a wisely considered taxing system, which every year brings in more and more, because the business and income of the country grow every year. Under this system, while constantly relieving the public of burdens, she has paid off in fourteen years four hundred millions of dollars of debt. The principle is a plain and simple one—to take a certain small margin of the inevitable increase of the country's wealth to pay off its debt. We, on the contrary, are cutting into the very body of the country to do it; and, as it would be easy to show by a balance-sheet drawn up, increasing the debt substantially, not diminishing it, as we have before insisted, and shall never cease to insist. It is not necessary to dwell upon the gigantic political evils which accompany this mischievous finance. A great statesman said once that "finance is policy." Wrong money dealings infect life, private and public, and make it unwholesome all over. Our gigantic taxing system is a great carcass that invites human vultures in myriads to prey upon it. We leave alone that point just now, for we want to concentrate attention on the single point of money loss, which is heavy enough in all conscience, or out of all conscience rather. We hope and believe that the people will soon make an end of all this. The principle of paying off debt out of inevitable increase of public wealth is applicable to no country so decisively as to this, which must, in the physical nature of things, be in a few years so much richer and vaster in population than now. We trust that this will be felt at once in the proper quarter, and that this nonsense of killing the goose for the golden eggs will be stopped. Leave a hundred millions more in the pockets of our industrious people, and pay debt gradually, if it must be paid before it is due. It is not, however, considered good policy to do this in private life; why should it in public? The proverb says that there are two bad paymasters, one who pays before the time, and the other who does not pay at all. The proper medium for a nation, perhaps, is to pay out of increasing resources. Let us adopt it without delay. Our tolling millions require that bare justice at the hands of those who represent them, and they will have it.

The St. Domingo Resolution Passed—The Commission.

The St. Domingo, or Dominican resolution, as adopted by the House, was concurred in yesterday by the Senate, after a discussion of several hours, in which the implacable Sumner and intractable Carl Schurz were most conspicuous and ferocious on the opposition side.

We presume that General Grant, in the appointment of three commissioners, authorized to go down to St. Domingo and look into the history and condition, political and social, and into the resources and products and everything connected with the republic of Dominica, in reference to the expediency of its annexation to the United States, will lose no time, but will "strike while the iron is hot," and send off his men at once. It is rumored that the staunch and trusty "Old Ben Wade" is to be at the head of the commission, and his appointment, if made, will give general satisfaction. We suppose, however, that this rumor is a mere conjecture, though sometimes mere conjectures prove correct. In any event it seems to be understood that the commission is to be expeditious in making its inquiries and in returning with its report, so that, if possible, its report—which will doubtless be in favor of annexation—may be submitted for the action of the present Congress, which expires on the 4th of March next. Failing in this, we presume it is the desire of General Grant to have the commission back again in season for the first session of the new Congress, which, unless otherwise ordered by a new law, will meet on the 4th of March, with the retirement of the present Congress. To aid the Commission and the public generally, we have had prepared, and publish this morning, a map showing the proposed territorial acquisition. It is probable that unless this St. Domingo question shall come up in the form suggested this first session of the new Congress will be very brief; whereas, with the question before the two houses in a message from the President, we may have a session of two or three months' duration, ending with the annexation of Dominica and a bill for its government as a Territory of the United States.

A PIRATICAL PLOT.—Our correspondent at Aspinwall sends us the particulars of a plot arranged among the Cubans of this city to embark on board the United States mail steamship Ocean Queen, on her last voyage to Aspinwall, over two hundred Cuban recruits. They were to have gone as steerage passengers, and after getting to sea the ship was to have been seized, and the notorious Colonel Ryan, who was on board under an assumed name, was to have taken command. The ship was to have been run upon the Cuban coast, the arms, of which she had a large number on board, and the men were to have been landed and the ship then released. Fortunately a detachment of United States troops, en route for San Diego, went out by the Ocean Queen, and thus frustrated the designs of the Cuban pirates. They are adopting bold measures, and if caught by the authorities of the United States they may expect no more mercy than they would receive at the hands of the Spaniards. If the Cubans in this city, in order to accomplish their plans, are arranging piratical expeditions, it will be well for our steamship owners to be on their guard.

ENGLAND AND THE CONFERENCE.—It is said that Lord Granville is mainly responsible for the postponement of the London Conference. Why? The reason, it may yet be found, is that Lord Granville sees that in another Crimean war Great Britain, although she can now confidently count upon Austria, needs her ancient ally, France. As a few weeks may put upon the French throne a Bonaparte or a Bourbon delay, from Lord Granville's point of view, is not dangerous.

ONE OF BOSS TWEED'S SMALL JOBS.—An act to incorporate the Real Estate Trust Company, with a capital of a million dollars, has been introduced into the Legislature by Boss Tweed. This will prove a nice little bureau through which real estate jobs can be carried on successfully in this city.

Military Activity in France.

Our war despatches continue meagre, but they furnish information enough to convince us that the opposing armies in the Southwest and East are engaged in a vigorous campaign. A Versailles telegram reports General de Chanzy's army as retreating from all points, but we presume that Le Mans is still held by the French. We are not surprised at this retrograde movement. As was suggested yesterday it is probably a part of de Chanzy's plan of operations and may not be compulsory. It seems to us, however, that the French ought to endeavor to hold Le Mans, if they do not propose making an immediate advance upon Paris. Le Mans is the terminus of three railroads, each of which starts from a seaport town, and, consequently, enables the French to receive supplies of food and ammunition with ease and rapidity. If Chanzy retreats upon Alençon he will have only the railroad from Cherbourg upon which to depend for the transportation of supplies. We doubt if this single line will suffice for the purposes of a large army. It may be, however, that Chanzy will leave Le Mans for the purpose of rapidly concentrating near Alençon—say at Montagne—and then endeavor to flank Prince Frederick Charles and reach Versailles by way of Dreux. Thus far the main efforts of the Germans seem to be directed against his right wing, undoubtedly for the purpose of preventing a junction with the Army of Bordeaux. If Chanzy intends making an effort to hold Le Mans he ought to give battle somewhere near Montfort, on the Huise river. The country here is admirably adapted to defensive warfare. It is broken by numerous small rivers, the passage of which in the face of a brave enemy would be no easy task.

The operations in the East are becoming more active. On the 9th inst. a severe engagement was fought at Villersexel, and both sides claim the victory. The scene of the battle is a village in the department of Haute Saône, some twelve miles southeast of Vesoul and perhaps twenty-five miles southwest of Belfort. We cannot understand why it was necessary for the Germans to advance on Villersexel, because it seems to us that they should have been in possession of it. As the French despatch claims, the village must have been the key to the German military position. It virtually commands the line of communication between the German investing force before Belfort and the army under Von Werder at Vesoul. The conclusion, then, is natural that either Von Werder blundered greatly at first in permitting the French to occupy so important a position near his lines or the Bordeaux telegram gives the correct account. We shall doubtless obtain the truth in a few days, either from the fighting of another battle at the same point or from the raising of the siege of Belfort and evacuation of Vesoul by the Germans.

Our special correspondent at Brussels forwards a report of the occurrence of bread riots in Paris, which resulted in a collision between the mob and the troops. It is easy to see that if serious dissensions have broken out in the beleaguered capital its early capitulation will become a necessity. From other sources we learn that the bombardment continues vigorously, and that the French return fire flags perceptibly. This latter statement is surprising, because the artillerists in the forts are all from the navy, and are accounted the best in the French service.

In concluding this résumé of the military situation in France we are impressed by the thought that the present activity of Prince Frederick Charles is due to the weakening of the German investing line around Paris. Should this prove to be the case Trochu's failure to take advantage of it and make a grand sortie will confirm our opinion of his military incapacity. Certainly, if he does not assume the offensive within a very few days his last chance of success will be gone forever.

United States Senator from West Virginia.

Charles J. Faulkner, formerly of Old Virginia, but now of West Virginia, having been invited to become a candidate for the United States Senate from the latter State, has written a letter in reply, in which he says:—

I do not seek the office and shall not seek it. I have never expressed to any human being the wish to have the place, and yet, in response to your direct inquiry, I feel no hesitation in saying that if Congress should remove my present political disabilities and it shall be the pleasure of the State of West Virginia, unsolicited by me, to call me to her service in the Senate of the United States, I shall, as a citizen of the State, deeply sympathizing in all that affects her fortunes and fame, feel it my duty to accept the position and to discharge its duties to the best of my ability.

Mr. Faulkner was an active member of Congress for several terms prior to the rebellion, and in 1860 was appointed by President Buchanan Minister to France. He returned to the United States in 1861, and being suspected of disloyalty was imprisoned in Fort Warren, but was exchanged for Hon. Alfred Ely in December of that year. Since that time he has remained entirely in private life, until the present effort of his friends to restore him to the service of the public. Mr. Faulkner was always considered a national Union man until the outbreak of the rebellion, and being absent from the country at that time cannot be said to have been particularly concerned in "driving the Southern heart" to a treasonable extent. Personally he is esteemed a high-toned and honorable gentleman, while for statesmanlike abilities he was, during his Congressional career, considered the peer of some of our most distinguished men. Congress will have a delicate point to settle when called upon to decide the question of the removal of Mr. Faulkner's disabilities. If the Southerners could manage to behave themselves for any reasonable length of time, and cease their premature efforts at retaliation, which cannot possibly ensure to their benefit, a general act of amnesty might be passed to cover all such cases as that of Mr. Faulkner. Until they do we fear there is but little hope for the restoration of their strongest men to public life, so long at least as the reins of government are held in the hands they are at present.

AN IRISH GENTLEMAN tenders a residence to his Holiness the Pope on his estate near Limerick in the Green Isle. In this particular instance of devotion to the Pontiff Ireland cannot claim to rank ahead, as the use of a magnificent homestead near New York was offered to the head of the Roman Catholic Church long since, as may be seen in the files of the HERALD.

Congress Yesterday—End of the Dominican Controversy—Internal Improvements.

The Dominican joint resolution passed yesterday through its last legislative stage, the Senate having, after a three hours' debate, concurred unanimously in the House amendment precluding the idea of the government being bound to the acquisition of the republic of Dominica. We have no doubt that the country at large will be gratified that this much vexed question has been at last removed from the Congressional arena, and that both houses will now be free to attend to the ordinary and necessary business of legislation. The success of the administration thus far in the matter of the commission is said to be no real indication of the sentiment of either house on the simple question of annexation, inasmuch as republican Senators and members voted for the commission, as a harmless and not very costly affair, who would, nevertheless, oppose to the last extremity the policy of annexation.

The proceedings in the House yesterday presented no features of public interest. A bill for the collection and publication of consular reports as to the cereal crops of other countries was passed, and another bill for the more careful transportation of cattle by railroad was discussed and laid over till to-morrow. The death of Mr. Covode, of Pennsylvania, was announced, and a committee appointed to attend his funeral. Then the House went into Committee of the Whole, and, after a long discussion, made large appropriations for continuing the work on the Louisville and Portland Canal and on the Des Moines Rapids. The consideration of the Legislative Appropriation bill developed a very smart practice of the small newspapers throughout the country which are designated by the Clerk of the House for publishing the laws of Congress—that is, to procure from the public printing office at Washington the few score or few hundred pamphlet copies of the laws required to furnish each subscriber with a copy, and thus, at very trifling expense, become entitled to the pay allowed for advertising. It was a Nevada paper that was found to have adopted this plan, but it is understood that the same thing has been going on all over the country. The Committee on Appropriations made an effort to have the law repealed which facilitated this trick by allowing copies of public documents to be obtained at cost price, but a very strong opposition to that was developed, led by the chairman of the Printing Committee, and the proposed repeal was defeated, so that Congressional sanction is given to this swindle. To be sure, if it is desired that the laws shall be published, it is better to have them in pamphlet form rather than diluted through the columns of weekly newspapers; but the real question, and which does not seem to have been touched upon in the debate, is, What possible use is such sort of publication at all? It helps to deplete the Treasury and to keep up feeble party newspapers. Only that and nothing more.

OUR STATE LEGISLATURE.—The little agitation about the formation of the principal committees in our Legislature was settled yesterday by the Speaker announcing the standing committees, as given in our usual legislative columns. It will be seen that there is but little change in regard to the chairmanships of the principal committees as before announced. A rather important movement was made tending to show the action of the democratic party in this State in regard to the annexation of St. Domingo. A resolution was introduced in the House, and referred to the Committee on Federal Relations, having this object in view. Opposition to the measure on the part of the democracy of New York appears to be a foregone conclusion. This is among the first planks that will probably be spiked in the democratic platform for the next Presidential campaign.

FURTHER SAFEGUARDS TO LIFE ASSURANCE.—A bill has been introduced in the State Legislature proposing to place it out of the power of life insurance companies to make any objection to the payment of policies, on the ground of misrepresentation in the sanitary condition of the insured, after three annual premiums shall have been paid. The justice of such a measure must strike everybody as entirely evident. If the companies continue from year to year to receive the premiums of the insured it is eminently proper that when the widow or other beneficiary shall come to claim the amount of the policy there shall be no charge of forfeiture because of matters which should have been the subject of investigation at an earlier time. The bill allows a sufficiently wide margin—the period of three annual premiums—should pass.

BROOKS VS. HASTINGS.—The newspaper quarrels in this city seem to have been taken up in Congress. Mr. Brooks, of this city, having had his official integrity impugned by Mr. Hugh Hastings, editor of the *Commercial Advertiser*, in the columns of his paper, brings the matter before Congress, and a committee of investigation is appointed upon the mutual admiration principle in vogue among Congressmen. The matter might more properly have been taken before the courts; but it would have been better for Mr. Brooks not to have noticed it at all, neither on the floor of Congress nor in the courts of law. Mr. Brooks' official record ought to be sufficient to enable his reputation for integrity to pass current in any community. Besides, if he worries himself about such trifles he may keep himself in hot water all the time. He has attached entirely too much importance to this affair, and had better "let it slide" altogether.

GOVERNOR GEARY AS THE LARGE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT.—The Nashville Union reminds us that Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, will probably be the nominee of the National Labor Union for President in 1872, and hence his violent opposition to the Enforcement act—the employment of troops at elections—need not create surprise. Still it does not appear that the Governor is prepared to declare open war on the administration. The National Labor Union is, no doubt, a very formidable body; but it is hardly powerful enough as yet, we think, to run in a Presidential candidacy solely by its own strength. Geary is too old a soldier and too sly a politician to be caught leading in any movement that has not the chances for success decidedly in its favor.

CASSIUS M. CLAY says he will go for Horace Greeley for President. Probably that is the reason Mr. Greeley "won't" go for St. Domingo.

Capitulation of Paris and a European War.

Signs and symptoms which are easily interpreted by the watchful and experienced eye are visible in the news from Europe that we this morning publish, and in all that we have been receiving for some days past. The German investing armies are pushing the siege of Paris with tremendous energy, and the inevitable result begins to force itself upon the minds of the most sanguine. The French capital must fall. Her resistance has been heroic, under all the circumstances, beyond parallel, and history will transmit from age to age the story of this her sorest trial, her supreme tribulation. Her wonderful variety of resources, her equally astonishing ingenuity of adaptation, her quiet, order, patience, fortitude, self-reliance and patriotism have excited afresh the admiration of the world, already accorded to her artistic taste, her splendor, her gaiety and her priceless treasures, relics and monuments. Yes! Paris—the proud, imperial city—Babylon the Great of modern days—must yield to hard necessity. She cannot allow her children to be slaughtered nor her accumulations of art and science to be destroyed in a futile resistance, after the guns of her own fortresses have been turned upon her populous suburbs and the enormous shells of the Krupp batteries have begun to rain down into the courtyards of her palaces. The foe is close upon her in tremendous numbers recruited freshly from beyond the Rhine by new forces one-third as strong as the whole invading army was a month ago. He is now pressing her with desperation, sharpened by the exasperated outcry that swells hourly to more menacing notes from a vast united people in Fatherland demanding to know why the war is not promptly ended by its crowning success. All the resources, masculine vigor, generalship and supreme determination of the new Germanic empire are bent with tenfold zeal upon the capture of the great city on the Seine, and neither life, outlay, science, material, invention, whether in engineering or diplomacy, will be spared to bring it at once to terms.

The direst necessity exists on both sides for this conclusion. Disguise it as they may, thousands of people in the beleaguered place are suffering dreadfully, while throughout all Germany the suspense and impatience to be done with this work have become well nigh a frenzy, if we are to judge by the tone of every journal that reaches us from the land of King William and his proposed imperial subjects. Moreover, we know that even amid the thunder of hostile guns, the most strenuous secret efforts are making to effect what has been so often refused—an honorable and reasonable capitulation. Bismarck is as great a manager as Moltke is a military strategist, and he is, after all, a republican of the future who well knows that royalty is not immortal. Two vast organizations that were purely military—viz., the original French and German regular armies—have been enormously diminished. The chief masses on both sides, now set over against each other consist of armed citizens. It is Germany's boast that her entire people are in the war; it is the cry of France appealing to the world that she, too, is now the people battling for home and fireside. The secret voices of both these peoples is not for blood; it is for peace. Both have shown the grandest heroism; both have suffered beyond example; they have revealed themselves to each other at last with "the light of battle on their faces," and irreconcilable hatreds are not the growth of many hearts, the causes being corrected or removed. Non-combatants may curse unto the end, but men who are familiar with the gaze of death are most accessible to reason—"the bravest still the gentlest." Paris is on the eve of the noblest resolution of all—to be morally equal to the fortune of war—and with her acceptance of this result will come the free, spontaneous, overwhelming offer of the true German people for lasting peace and friendship. This day may bring the first note of its coming.

But, unfortunately, this reconciliation between the two great belligerents whose gigantic struggle now enchains the attention of mankind, is anything but the harbinger of a general peace. In fact, both adversaries feel the necessity of some arrangement in the prospect of a far wider and more destructive conflict on the North and the South, and extending from the latter quarter to perhaps the farthest East. Great Britain—now the first financial and naval power of the world—is, beyond all question, arming, in hot haste and on an imposing scale, for some tremendous conflict. Her naval and military workshops ring, night and day, with the dreadful note of preparation, and she is purchasing artillery and rifles of the latest and most approved construction, in this country, in enormous quantities. At the same moment, the tread of freshly summoned armies echoes along the western and southern frontiers of Russia, and Austria and Turkey are both on the alert. There is a stern gathering on the Baltic and the Black Seas which will sweep down upon the German Ocean, the English Channel and the Mediterranean with a violence in the presence of which France and Prussia may well hold their hostile hands and seek present rescue and future security in honest reconciliation and alliance. As, a year ago, we foresaw, and foretold the crash that has shattered France and decimated Germany, so do we now clearly foresee a direr trouble brooding over Europe.

THE HOUSE has agreed upon Philadelphia as the place for the celebration of the centenary of our independence. That eminently respectable old village must commence at once to inflate itself with a little New York energy, or it will not be able in the intervening period of five years to sustain the shock.

"HAZING" AT WEST POINT.—The Military Academy at West Point should certainly set the example of abolishing forever the brutal custom of "hazing" which still flingers disgracefully in our colleges. This custom, more honored in the breach than the observance, is glaringly unbecoming to any one who is supposed to be learning to be an officer and a gentleman. It is Lynch law, without the pretext which rough frontier life sometimes affords for putting that into execution. The Superintendent of the West Point Academy very justly launched a general order on Tuesday against what he stigmatizes as "mob law." The condemnation of all the members of the first class to confinement within narrow limits at the post and deprivation of